

GOVERNOR'S  
REASONS  
FOR VETO:

Renewal notices are mailed out six weeks before the expiration date of tags, and this is ample time. If this bill became effective, law officers would have to ignore law enforcement the first five days of each month. Just because the Legislature granted a five-day delay for enforcement of safety inspection stickers, there is no reason to compound the error by enacting this bill.

SPONSOR'S  
VIEW:

Rep. Barrientos called this veto an example of "Republican insensitivity." It is based on political considerations rather than on the needs of the people of Texas. It is not true that people get adequate notice for renewal. Many offices do send out notices six weeks ahead, but it is not required by law. This bill would have relieved citizens of an undue burden.

Alternate punishment for misdemeanors  
(HB 1657 by G. Hill)

DIGEST: This bill would have allowed certain alternative punishments for persons found guilty of certain misdemeanors that are punishable by fine only. A judge could have suspended the fine and directed the defendant to post a bond for the fine, pay restitution to the victim (but not more than the fine), submit to professional counseling, and comply with any other reasonable condition.

GOVERNOR'S  
REASONS  
FOR VETO:

The identical Senate bill (SB 914) has already been passed and signed into law.

SPONSOR'S  
VIEW:

The sponsor has no objections to the veto.

NOTES:

For more information, see the HSG Daily Floor Report of May 12, 1981.

Extending deed restrictions  
(HB 1705 by Colbert)

DIGEST: HB 1705 would have provided a procedure for extending or reinstating deed restrictions on land use in subdivisions located in cities without a comprehensive zoning ordinance. Property owners could petition to extend or reinstate a restriction, and those property owners who did not sign the petition would have the opportunity to opt out of any extended or reinstated restriction.

GOVERNOR'S  
REASONS  
FOR VETO:

Although some land use restrictions are appropriate for controlling urban growth and preserving neighborhood quality, HB 1705 represents undue government infringement on private property ownership. Even though a property owner could opt out of restrictions that are successfully extended or reinstated, he or she would be impaired from obtaining a fair market price for the property while a petition was being circulated.

SPONSOR'S  
VIEW:

Rep. Colbert said the bill was a fair compromise worked out among neighborhood groups, title insurers, and real estate developers and would have protected the interests of all affected landowners. The bill included provisions that met the Governor's stated objections. Any property improvements made or even started after a restriction had expired would not have been affected in any way had the restriction been extended or reinstated. Thus the mere circulation of a petition for extension or reinstatement, whether successful or not, would not have measurably affected property values. What does greatly affect property values is when deed restrictions on land use expire and speculators move into residential neighborhoods and begin commercial or apartment development. Homeowners are hurt since without zoning they have no mechanism for continued protection of the residential character of their neighborhood.

NOTES:

For more information on the bill see the HSG Daily Floor Report of April 23, 1981.

Arroyo Colorado Navigation District  
(HB 1851 by D. Lee)

DIGEST:

The bill would have changed the name of the Arroyo Colorado Navigation District (of Cameron and Willacy counties) to the Port of Harlingen Authority. It would have granted the authority powers to acquire and convey land, and to purchase, construct, and operate wharves, docks, warehouses, grain elevators, railroads, bridges, floating plants, cargo handling and towing facilities, and other facilities for the development and operation of the Authority's ports, waterways, navigation, and commerce.